

**A PROCLAMATION TO BE SUBMITTED  
BY LEGISLATOR MARINELLI**

**RE: Congratulating the Buffalo Bisons on their 25<sup>th</sup> Year of Play at Coca-Cola Field**

WHEREAS, Buffalo's AAA baseball franchise – the Buffalo Bisons are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> year of play on their home field, the Downtown Baseball Stadium, now named "Cola-Cola Field"; and

WHEREAS, Coca-Cola Field is the fifth iteration of the Downtown Baseball Stadium, which opened on July 1986 as Pilot Field; and

WHEREAS, at a total project cost of \$56 million, \$42 million for the stadium alone, the stadium hosted its first game on Opening Day, April 14, 1988 with the Buffalo Bisons prevailing over the Denver Zephyrs by a score of 1-0; and

WHEREAS, this game made history by selling more than 10,000 tickets in 84 minutes in March 1988; and

WHEREAS, the Home Opener is remembered for a number of "firsts," including its first pitch – a fastball from Bisons pitcher Bob Patterson at 2:34 p.m.; its first hit by Bison's Jim Reboulet – a single to left off Denver's Mark Knudson in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning; and its first home run – Bisons' Tom Prince solo off Mark Knudson in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning; and

WHEREAS, having a seating capacity of 18,025 and the largest HD screen in all of minor league baseball, the following is a chronology of its naming history:

Pilot Field	-	April 1988 – March 1995
Downtown Ballpark	-	March 1995 - July 1995
North AmeriCare Park-		July 1995 - May 1999
Dunn Tire Park	-	May 1999 - December 2008
Coca-Cola Field	-	January 2009 – Present; and

WHEREAS, throughout its first quarter century, the Downtown Baseball Stadium has brought hundreds of thousands of visitors to Downtown Buffalo – re-energizing local food and beverage establishments; and it is the drawing attraction that brings America's favorite pastime to legions of loyal fans of the Bisons – the farm team of the New York Mets; and also hosts special events such as Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra concerts, fireworks displays and Buffalo's annual Chicken Wing Festival.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature pause in its deliberations to congratulate the Buffalo Bisons on their 25<sup>th</sup> year of play in the Downtown Baseball Stadium now named Coca-Cola Field.